(c) whether there is anything in the records of the Forest Office against the party referred to in (b), and whether the department did not know that he was not substantial;

(d) whether that party did not transfer his rights to some one else immediately after, and if so, the name of that party;

(e) whether the late offer made by that party was 'tithe' in excess of the tender;

(f) whether that contract did not remain unfulfilled still, and whether the whole transaction did not result in a loss to the Government?

Mr. K. Govinda Menon.—(a) No.

(b) No tender was accepted after the stipulated time. One tender was accepted without *chalan*, but this was accompanied by cash. The name of the party is Kunnan Pailoth Devassi.

(c) There was a report of the Kodasseri Range Officer against the party in 1097. The department is not aware that he is not substantial.

(d) Yes. B. Muhammad Khan of Ernakulam.

(e) No. His original tender was not exactly in terms of the notification, but was for something in excess. He subsequently consented in writing on his tender alone to take toplings at the rate referred to in the tender.

(f) Yes It remains unfulfilled. Whether it is a loss or not cannot be definitely said now, as the contract is not closed.

The work of the Plantation Ranger.

139. Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar—Will the Government be pleased to state the exact work turned out by the Plantation Ranger in 1101, and whether they could not have that plantation work done without a special Ranger and his staff, while there are the Divisional Officers with personal assistants to them?

Mr. K. Govinda Menon.—The work turned out by the Plantation Ranger in 1101 are :—

1. supervision over areas that are to be operated upon for planting purposes in the year ;
2. supervision of the nurseries that are created to raise the nursery plants for planting purposes ;
3. planting operations in the localities of Vadakkancheri, Puthur, Palappalli and Chettikulam;
4. marking standing trees for thinning works in the plantations ; and
5. carrying out the thinning operations.

The answer to the latter part of the question is in the negative.

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